

100 Foot Oaks Shield the Dunfords' 'Island' Home

By MAXINE LAMPSHIRE

In a contemporary, American home, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Dunford at 1007 26th Rd. S. Arlington, have created a Hawaiian atmosphere reminiscent of the pleasant years they spent in the islands.

PERCHED ON THE Ridge, the 10 foot brick and red wood rambler boasts an upper terrace and a lower level patio. Virginia oak, maple, hickory and hemlock rise almost a hundred feet to seclude it. Among these the Dunfords

have planted hibiscus, yellow ginger, gardenia, banana (in summer, these grow), and two types of bamboo. These are especially effective on a summer evening when "Pat" Dunford uses her outdoor grill to prepare exotic dishes often seasoned with ginger root, and soy sauce and served with unusual fresh pineapple delicacies. Soft lighting effects are provided by flickering Hawaiian torches.

Inside, echoes of "aloha" ring through the warm, sunny rooms. This has not been easily achieved.

World travelers, the Dunfords have acquired furniture and bric-a-brac from Europe, the Far East as well as from Hawaii. In addition they have heirlooms from the General's English forefathers and "small things" from the New Orleans de Hymels (Mrs. Dunford's family) and antiques discovered in quaint little shops in Hong Kong, New York and elsewhere. Amidst all this the Hawaiian decor has proved surprisingly flexible.

COLOR AND CURTAINS are key factors in the successful results. Soft yellows, neutral tones of tan and brown are dominant. Curtains are almost eliminated. Looking toward the north and east through windows that include most of the wall — the entire length of the living, dining, den areas, a panoramic view of Washington unfolds.

There was no point in cluttering it with curtains, Mrs. Dunford decided. Instead, she added a few raw silk drapes in their natural color for effect. She need never draw them since the height of the home assures privacy. At the base of several of these windows, planter boxes filled with Hawaiian ti relieve starkness. In bath and kitchen, folding, interior louveres suffice.

In the living room, wall to wall mats woven from hala, light tan and soft underfoot, are a suitable base for the "pumpkin" table fashioned of rattan, and for the hand carved, rose wood nest of tables, and an ancient camphor

wood chest with its huge brass fittings.

Rows of shelving yield such oddities as a "Missy" Chinese make-up box (the make-up used by the concubine still intact), Grandfather's Wedgewood tobacco jar, a "thousand eyes" crystal vase, colorful, old Chinese chop plates and a mother of pearl keepsake letterbox with hidden space for love letters.

Above the modern fireplace hangs an antique mirror with velvet trim. Two dashes of brilliant red color are permitted among the subdued tones of the room — these are in the Chinese silk wall hangings "The God of Longevity" and "The Goddess of Love." On festive occasions Mrs. Dunford orders anthurium, torch ginger and tiny orchids flown in from Hawaii.

One of Mrs. Dunford's favorite recipes is a CHICKEN WITH GINGER Hawaiian Style

Two 2½ pound broilers, cut up.
3 cups fresh, frozen or canned pineapple chunks,
1 cup pineapple juice
1 cup soy sauce
2 tablespoons freshly grated ginger (can get at Chinese stores)
1 teaspoon ginger
Juice of 4 cloves of garlic
Peanut oil for frying

Cover chicken with a marinade made of the remaining ingredients. Marinate at least 4 hours in refrigerator, turning pieces once or twice. Drain chicken, set aside remaining marinade, brown chicken in shortening, add reserve marinade, bring to a simmer, transfer to casserole.

Bake uncovered at 325 F. about one hour or until chicken is tender, basting twice during the baking period. Serves about 6 to 8. Serve rice in individual red lacquer bowls. Use chop sticks.



A POLISHED KOA BOWL filled with pineapple, bananas and papaya is a frequent centerpiece on the old walnut table, an heirloom in General Dunford's family. Mrs. Dunford grows bananas, as well as bamboo and other tropical plants in her Arlington home. (SUN Photo by Bill Little)

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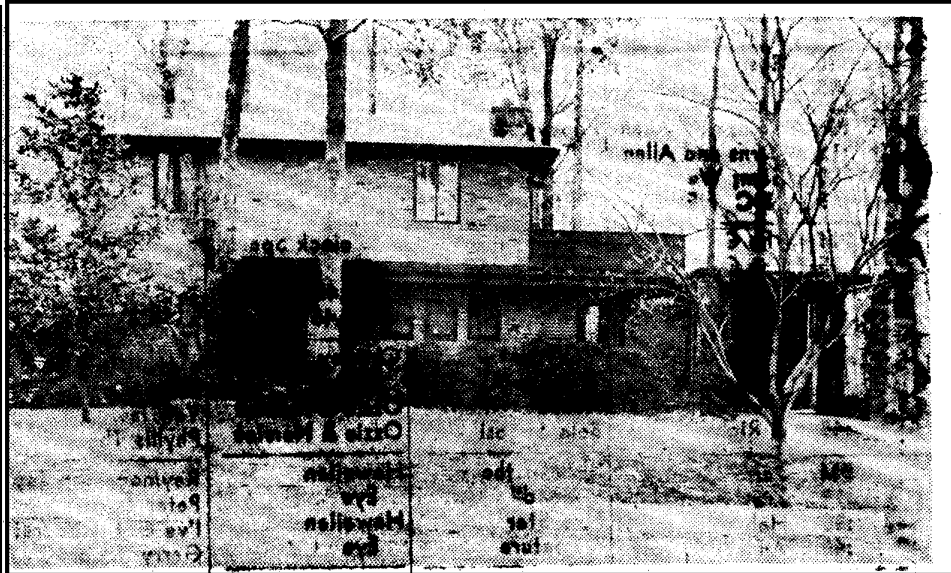
THEY DINE ON a spindle legged, old walnut table handed down from the General's mother — "it withstood hauling in a covered wagon over Kentucky and Missouri hills and must be over a century old." Months of searching in antique shops rewarded them with chairs to match — These were taken completely apart, old paint and varnish removed and re-caned. Hawaiian place mats and a polished koa table filled with pineapple, bananas and papaya often grace the sturdy old table.

FROM GERMANY, seven hand made copper pans (they are used every day) and an old brass pitch bowl with the German family crest still intact give the bright, little, yellow kitchen a lift. A cuckoo clock from the Black Forest cheerily announces the hour. Here again, color saves the day — copper, brass, yellow-tan.

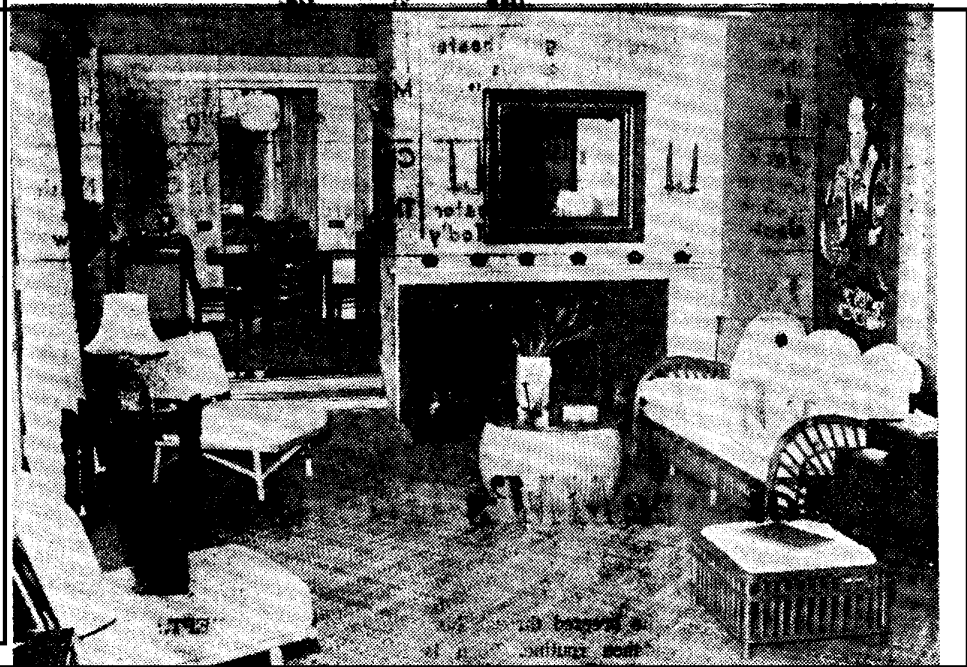
ALYCE HILTON'S painting "The Bird of Paradise" hangs over rattan beds in the master bedroom. An American pine chest in natural color (it now matches the rattan after its original lavender paint was removed) completes the suite.

Even the Dunford bath, despite its up-to-date fittings, refuses to go American modern all the way. Its "valentine" mirror (picked up at a junk shop) now trimmed in gold and white, bears a certain charm and elegance. Matching it, at least in vintage, is a seven piece pitcher and bowl set from the gay nineties era.

To the casual visitor the den reveals another side of the hostess. Here a small table is loaded with Mrs. Dunford's tennis trophies. It's her favorite hobby, she admits, next to decorating and collecting antiques.



THE HOME of Gen. and Mrs. Arlington, but as soon as its front door is opened "aloha" rooms. (SUN Photos by Bill Little).



HAWAIIAN DECOR dominates the Dunford living room, but family heirlooms give it depth of personality. The antique mirror with a velvet frame reflects the red silk hanging depicting The God of Longevity.

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